

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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**2015**

1. Increasing interest of India in Africa has its pros and cons. Critically examine.
2. Discuss the impediments India is facing in its pursuit of a permanent seat in UN Security Council.
3. Project 'Mausam' is considered a unique foreign policy initiative of the Indian Government to improve relationship with its neighbors. Does the project have a strategic dimension? Discuss.
4. Terrorist activities and mutual distrust have clouded India-Pakistan relations. To what extent the use of soft power like sports and cultural exchanges could help generate goodwill between the two countries? Discuss with suitable examples.

**2014**

5. With respect to the South China sea, maritime territorial disputes and rising tension affirm the need for safeguarding maritime security to ensure freedom of navigation and over flight throughout the region. In this context, discuss the bilateral issues between India and China.
6. The aim of Information Technology Agreements (ITAs) is to lower all taxes and tariffs on information technology products by signatories to zero. What impact should such agreements have on India's interests?
7. Some of the International funding agencies have special terms for economic participation stipulating a substantial component of the aid to be used for sourcing equipment from the leading countries. Discuss on merits of such terms and if, there exists a strong case not to accept such conditions in the Indian context.
8. India has recently signed to become founding a New Development Bank (NDB) and also the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) .How will the role of the two Banks be different? Discuss the significance of these two Banks for India.
9. WTO is an important international institution where decisions taken affect countries in profound manner. What is the mandate of WTO and how binding are their decisions? Critically analyse India's stand on the latest round of talks on Food security.

**2013**

10. The proposed withdrawal of International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) from Afghanistan in 2014 is fraught with major security implications for the countries of the region. Examine in light of the fact that India is faced with a plethora of challenges and needs to safeguard its own strategic interests.
11. What do you understand by 'The String of Pearls'? How does it impact India? Briefly outline the steps taken by India to counter this.

12. Economic ties between India and Japan while growing in the recent years are still far below their potential. Elucidate the policy constraints which are inhibiting this growth.
13. The protests in Shahbag Square in Dhaka in Bangladesh reveal a fundamental split in society between the nationalists and Islamic forces. What is its significance for India?
14. Discuss the political developments in Maldives in the last two years. Should they be of any cause of concern to India?
15. In respect of India - Sri Lanka relations, discuss how domestic factors influence foreign policy.
16. What is meant by Gujral doctrine? Does it have any relevance today? Discuss.
17. The World Bank and the IMF, collectively known as the Bretton Woods Institutions, are the two inter-governmental pillars supporting the structure of the world's economic and financial order. Superficially, the World Bank and the IMF exhibit many common characteristics, yet their role, functions and mandate are distinctly different. Elucidate.

**2012**

18. What is meant by the G8+5 group?
19. What are India's stakes in the South China Sea?
20. Compare the significance of IBSA and BRICS in the context of India's multilateral diplomacy.
21. How have the US sanctions against Iran affected India's bilateral relations with Iran?
22. Write a short analytical note on Indian Diaspora. How is the "New Diaspora" different from the "Old Diaspora"?
23. Does Putin's return as President of Russia mark a shift to a confrontationist stance in international diplomacy towards the West?
24. Do you think that China's emergence as one of the largest trading partners of India had adversely affected the settlement of the outstanding border problem?
25. Discuss the contentious issues that have caused the prolonged constitutional logjam in Nepal.
26. The situation today is far different to that prevalent fifty years back when the Indus Water Treaty was signed." Highlight the complexity of the current challenges on both sides of the border in this regard. Do you think that a review of the Treaty is in India's best interests?

**2011**

27. List the Central Asian Republics and identify those of particular strategic and economic importance to India. Examine the opportunities and bottlenecks in enhancing relations with these countries.
28. Critically examine the security and strategic implications of the so-called 'string of pearls' theory for India.
29. "Compared to the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA), the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multisectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation Free Trade Area (BIMSTEC FTA) seems to be more promising." Critically evaluate.

30. Measures taken by the Indian government to combat piracy in the Indian Ocean.
31. Subsequent to the Nuclear Suppliers' Group (NSG) waiver in 2008, what are the agreements on nuclear energy that India has signed with different countries?
32. Trace the progress of India's efforts for a joint counter-terrorism strategy with China. What are the likely implications of the recent Xinjiang violence on these efforts?
33. Bring out the importance of the 'Small and Medium Enterprises Expo and Conference' held in Dubai last year for Indian business.
34. What are the salient features of the political and economic relationship between India and South Africa?
35. Strategies adopted by Colombia to eliminate its drug cartels
36. World Food Programme (WFP) of the United Nations (UN)
37. Sculpture of the broken chair in front of the UN building at Geneva
38. "As regards the increasing rates of melting of Arctic Sea ice, the interests of the Arctic Council nations may not coincide with those of the wider world." Explain.
39. Is there still a role for the concept of balance of power in contemporary international politics? Discuss.
40. "Strategic interests seem to be replacing commercial interests for the host country with regard to Cam Ranh Bay." Amplify.
41. To what extent has the withdrawal of al-Shabab from Mogadishu given peace a real chance in Somalia? Assess.

